

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19591

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV IN CENTRAL ASIA

TEL AVIV FOR THE AMBASSADOR

1. SUMMARY: EMBOFF, ON TRIP THROUGH SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA DECEMBER 5-14, OBSERVED SEVERAL INSTANCES OF UNUSUAL PROMINENCE BEING GIVEN TO BREZHNEV. HIS PORTRAIT IS TO BE SEEN MUCH MORE OFTEN AND IS MUCH MORE PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED THAN IS THE CASE IN MOSCOW. END SUMMARY.

2. ADULATION OF BREZHNEV IS PARTICULARLY VISIBLE IN DUSHANBE. HUGE PORTRAITS OF BREZHNEV WERE PAINTED ON THE SIDES OF BUILDINGS IN THE THREE MAIN SQUARES OF THE CITY. A BANNER CARRYING HIS PORTRAIT IS STRETCHED VERTICALLY BETWEEN TWO FLOORS OF THE TALLEST BUILDING IN THE CITY AND ONE HANGS ON THE AIRPORT TERMINAL AS WELL. SMALLER PORTRAITS HANG OVER THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND ON AT LEAST TWO OTHER GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

3. IN SAMARKAND THERE WAS A LARGE PORTRAIT OF BREZHNEV PAINTED ON THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING OVERLOOKING THE MAIN REGISTAN SQUARE. A
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BOOK SHOP IN SAMARKAND HAD PORTRAITS OF THE POLITBURO MEMBERS FOR SALE AND ON DISPLAY. BREZHNEV WAS PLACED AT THE BEGINNING. ALL THE OTHER FULL MEMBERS EXCEPT ROMANOV AND USTINOV WERE ON DISPLAY; PONAMAREV'S PORTRAIT WAS ALSO INCLUDED.

4. IN KHIVA BREZHNEV COULD BE FOUND ABOVE THE ENTRANCE OF AN

EIGHT-YEAR SCHOOL, ALTHOUGH HE HAD TO SHARE THIS SPACE WITH SUSLOV. A MUSEUM DEVOTED TO REVOLUTIONARY KHIVA HAD TWO DISPLAY CASES ON THE GENERAL SECRETARY.

5. BUKHARA'S KOMSOMOL SHOP HAD LARGE COLORED PORTRAITS OF BREZHNEV ON DISPLAY AND SMALLER ONES, ALSO IN COLOR, OF KOSYGIN. THE REST OF THE POLITBURO COULD BE PURCHASED, BUT ONLY IN BLACK AND WHITE. A LARGE PORTRAIT OF BREZHNEV WAS PAINTED ON THE BUILDING OPPOSITE THE BUKHARA OBKOM HEADQUARTERS, WHILE BREZHNEV ALSO GRACED THE ENTRANCE TO THE BUKHARA AIRPORT TERMINAL. THE ONLY OTHER PORTRAITS OF "POLITICAL" FIGURES WERE MARX AND ENGELS, WHO FLANKED A STATUE OF LENIN, AND GORKIY, WHO HUNG ON THE OBLAST' LIBRARY.

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